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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

12/10/76
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December 10, 1976

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
[REDACTED]

Honorable Robert C. Hill
American Ambassador
American Embassy
Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

NR

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

My friendship with Miro developed at the luncheon which Prat Guy offered for Charlie Bray. Miro had all sorts of misinformation about Congressman Drinan's words at Georgetown, and I offered to let him read my notes. He sent over a Colonel Rodriguez who read my notes into a recorder. Rodriguez advised me that President Videla would have a report forthwith. Rodriguez also noted that Miro often speaks to Videla over the phone, something which caused a problem for Musich. I can imagine what would happen if Colonel Coughlin had a hot line to Ford!

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I took advantage of my conversation with Rodriguez to discuss human rights. Unlike the civilians at the Embassy, Rodriguez defended the GOA's actions. When I noted that prisoners are not being taken, he replied that the Montoneros have cyanide pills. If they allow themselves to be captured and are later released, Rodriguez claimed, then the Montoneros would kill them as assumed stoolies. Furthermore, Rodriguez warned that if one did not shoot first, the guerrillas would lob a grenade at you. Undeterred, I asked about lists of prisoners. Rodriguez said such lists would give comfort to the enemy and tip them off where to strike to release captives. I acknowledged that a dirty war was involved in Argentina but told Rodriguez that the war had a public relations aspect which Argentina would lose if the world perceived injustice there.

If Rodriguez mirrors his boss, they are two hard liners who are convinced that the United States is also being undermined by Marxists in slippers. Miro adds homosexuals for good measure.

2-10-81
H/R

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Pages 3 and 4 have been eliminated because they are
entirely irrelevant

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Sincerely,

Don Fernando

Fernando E. Rondon

Enclosure: As stated

Concurrence: ARA/ECA - Mr. Zimmermann */FR*

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